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Lubbock, Texas

# Elditor

## Presidential Campaign Heats Up; Former President Clinton Visits Lubbock

When a former Democratic President visits a predominantly conservative Republican area to campaign for a presidential candidate that is in and of itself a news event. But when former President Bill Clinton did so this past Saturday to campaign on his wife's behalf in front of at least 2,000 people; and at least 2 local television stations stayed with the speech and carried the broadcast live, then it really is news rarely seen around the South Plains region. With the March 4 primary election day just under 13 days away, and with early voting already underway, predictions that Texas will play a major role in deciding who the eventual nominee will be proved to be true. But the real question is whether the Democratic primary will serve as the saving bell for Hillary Clinton or the final bell for a campaign in which Clinton was once seen as the inevitable Democratic Presidential nominee. To be sure, Lubbock is seen as an area most Democratic campaigns simply ignore due to the fact that it is extremely difficult to mount a credible campaign against the usually better funded Republican opponent. But in this case, it is a battle between two major Democrats going for this country's top prize. As for local resident and educator Ernestine Cantu the choice is one between experience and inexperience. She asks the following question when asked about her choice in the primary, "whom would you

rather have on your side, an experienced successful legislator or one with 2 years experience passing or not passing or not voting one way or the other on any legislation? I'll take experience over "motivation," any day," says Cantu. Cantu also stresses that it is not because Clinton is female but "because she has



PROVEN herself to me and millions of other Democrats. Hillary has been in the trenches for us for 35+ years, she has earned my vote. And what makes this battle even more

interesting is the fact that both groups are going after a constituency which has long been seen as playing a pivotal role in any election. This time, by virtue of the race and the fact that most Hispanics who participate in this primary will do so in the Democratic one, it really will be the case; not only in the state, but locally as well.



To show just how important winning every vote is, Hillary Clinton campaign opened an office here this past week at 4322 50th St. In a press release issued by the campaign, Clinton says that, "Our campaign is deeply committed to Texas and I am thrilled we are opening an office in Lubbock. As I travel across Texas I am constantly struck

by the people I meet and the stories they share. Like the people of this great state, I believe in faith, family, and hard work. I am honored to have support in Lubbock.

The campaign's Texas Chairman, Gary Mauro, also expressed his belief that Lubbock area voters will vote for Hillary Clinton. "Throughout the state, thousands of people are coming together in support of Hillary; we are deeply committed to this state and believe if the people of Lubbock stand with Hillary that Hillary will do well in Texas."

The campaign took no time in scheduling a steering committee meeting at the newly opened offices; which organizers said will be used as a gathering place for campaign workers and volunteers. The campaign also announced the creation of a toll free phone number Lubbock voters can call to find out where they should cast their vote; 1-866-939-VOTE.

As for Barack Obama, the candidate who is leading the delegate count 1,319 to 1,250 after his visit Tuesday in the Wisconsin primary and Hawaii caucuses, he is scheduled to make a Lubbock appearance next week, February 28.

In the meantime, the Obama campaign announced that Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy will campaign for him in the Lone Star State; just not here in Lubbock. Kennedy was scheduled to appear at two separate locations in South Texas; long seen as the area which is rich in Hispanic voters.

In endorsing Obama, Kennedy said that "I am convinced we can reach our goals only if we are not party when our cause is great"—only if we find a way past the stale ideas and stalemate of our times—only if we

replace the politics of fear with the politics of hope—and only if we have the courage to choose change."

Clearly, both candidates are aiming their rhetoric at Hispanic voters; but Texas may prove to be the state where Hispanic voters split between Obama and Clinton. So far in this campaign, Hispanic voters have been credited with helping Clinton win in states like California and New Jersey. But the Obama campaign has also credited Hispanic voters in Illinois and Latinos in Virginia as being behind his win in those 2 states.

And if early voting is any indication of what might happen, the stakes in this battle are as great as the number of people who will vote in this primary.

In an appearance in Dallas on Wednesday, attended by 17,000 people by some estimates, Obama doesn't name his opponent directly but his comments as reported in the Dallas Morning News on line edition made clear he was referring to Clinton: "It's a choice that's not just about turning the page of the politics of the past, but turning the page on the politics of the past," he said. "It's time to move past the politics of yesterday because we are the party of tomorrow. We're moving forward."

At stake is Texas' 228 delegates and 35 Super Delegates and with all accounts Clinton lost with the majority of those delegates if she is to continue in her quest for the White House Democratic nomination.

Next Texas spot for both candidates; Austin, Texas, where they will face off against each other on Thursday the 21st in one last chance to sell Texas voters on their ideas of what change really means. Email: [elditor@bcgblab.net](mailto:elditor@bcgblab.net)

## News Briefs

### Street Renaming Task Force Meeting

Lubbock's Street Renaming Task Force is holding a public hearing to solicit citizen input about the naming and renumbering of City streets, such as buildings and streets. The formation of a task force came on the heels of the controversy which resulted after a local civic group, the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Committee, petitioned the city council to rename a portion of Canyon Lakes Dr. to Cesar Chavez Dr.

While the group was successful in getting the council to agree to renaming certain sections of the park road last year, it was not granted their request that "street sign toppers" be used on street signs highlighting the sections of the street not renamed in the ordinance.

Then last week, the full council declined to vote on a motion by Councilwoman Linda DeLoe, which was not seconded, to remove other sections of the road so that it could be a continuous road without any breaks in between. The additional renaming was seen as an effort to remedy that situation.

That prompted the spokesperson for the organizers, Christy Martinez to issue a statement in which she said that "This is a slap in the face of the Latino community."

But City Councilman Todd Klein says that "We would like citizens to share their thoughts and suggestions about the process by which City streets and buildings should be designated."

In October, Klein proposed the creation of the task force to review and make recommendations to the City Council regarding ordinances and policies relating to the naming or renaming of City streets and signs. The task force began discussions early this year, and plans to hold two public meetings to hear from citizens.

The task force has agreed that in the future street names should not be changed. Instead, honorary designations could be granted and street sign toppers added to the designated areas.

In a somewhat related story to the street renaming, El Editor was sent a copy of an email sent to LULAC members in which the spokesperson for the Cesar Chavez Commemoration Committee, Christy Martinez, asked local radio talk show host and former AJ Editor Randy Sanders to write for her on her behalf during one of his recent radio programs (950 AM).

In the letter which is allegedly to LULAC Leaders, Martinez writes that "On Friday February 15, Randy Sanders, former AJ Editor and spokesperson for RAMAR Communications 950 AM, plans to make an important comment on his morning radio program implying that Hispanics are using get their priorities straight, focus on poverty, and take care of people with "toes filled homes."

Martinez continues in the letter that "While some of us care about the cause of a renaming a street, the great American leader like Cesar E. Chavez, we care more about Hispanic issues and overcoming the view and attitudes of ignorant individuals. More so, Hispanics have the right to honor their leaders or believe in what they want to believe. This comment should not be ignored or tolerated. That is why I am writing you, my LULAC brothers and sisters. I find it ironic that this type of negative sentiment about Hispanics is so acceptable even as we embark upon LULAC Week in the year 2008."

El Editor did not confirm whether the statement attributed to Sanders was actually made on the program, or what context it was made in.

The City Council adopted a moratorium on the naming or renaming of City assets, pending the task force's final report. The meeting is set for 2 p.m., Tuesday, February 26 in conference room 103 at City Hall, 1625 13th Street and residents are encouraged to attend. Email: [elditor@bcgblab.net](mailto:elditor@bcgblab.net)

### Community Special Advocates Desperately Needed

CASA of the South Plains is looking for volunteers in order to "continue to advocate for every child, making sure their voices are heard in the courtroom"

Those who are encouraged to volunteer their time and effort for this very worthwhile and rewarding cause.

Last year alone, the South Plains region "had the second highest number of confirmed victims of child abuse per capita in the entire state of Texas" according to a CASA press release seeking volunteers.

All special advocates will be trained and persons wishing more information are asked to call 763-CASA or contact the organization at [www.lubbockcasa.org](http://www.lubbockcasa.org)

The next session for volunteer training is planned for February 26 and will be held at the Bank of America Building located at 916 Main Street in Lubbock. In this three-day training seminar, volunteers will be properly taught the necessary skills to help advocate for local children in need. According to the press release, CASA does not want to have to turn our backs on any abused child because of a lack of funding, or lack of volunteers.

## Texas' Mexican American Democrats Endorse Obama

Texas' oldest Hispanic organization within the Democratic Party endorsed Barack Obama this week as it's candidate in the March 4 Texas Democratic Primary. The organization issued the following statement in endorsing Obama:

"The Mexican American Democrats believe that Senator Obama's experience bringing Americans of all ages, religions, races and ethnicities together make him the best candidate to make progress on the issues that matter to Hispanics in Texas and across America. Obama's leadership in the U.S. Senate on comprehensive immigration reform and his specific plans to strengthen our schools, bring about universal healthcare, and provide tax relief for working families show us that he is truly committed to improving the lives of Hispanics and all Americans."

The committee met on February 16 in Dallas to screen candidates and heard from a variety of candidates via conference call and in writing, according to the press release from the group.

"In the face of a tight primary race in Texas, the Hispanic community's participation at the polls will be crucial in deciding who will be the nominees of the Democratic Party. The mission of the Mexican American Democrats is to unify and empower the Mexican American-Latino community by increasing voting numbers to achieve political influence on issues that affect the Hispanic Community, as well as promote Hispanics as political candidates and appointees, according to the press release.

The committee also made sure to distinguish candidate's qualifications and added that, "The Mexican American community needs more than just Spanish speaking candidates trying to get the Hispanic vote. We need candidates who are committed to improve the lives of Latino men, women and children whether citizens, legal residents or documented by writing policies that work for us," said John Lopez chairman of the endorsing committee.

On the issue of immigration, the organization received the following statement from the Obama campaign: "My commitment to a humane and sensible immigration system is unparalleled...we want to bring the undocumented out of hiding and put them on a path of earned citizenship"

Other candidates receiving the organization's endorsement included Rick Noriega in the race for US Senator, Jim Jordan for Texas Supreme Court, Texas Supreme Court Place 7, Sam Houston and for Texas Supreme Court 8th they endorsed Linda Reyna Yanez. The endorsement for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals Place 4 went to JR Molina.

The organization also endorsed former Lubbock resident and LHS graduate Art Hall for Rail Road Commissioner, as the committee felt he understand Hispanic issues because he taught international law in Ecuador, speaks Spanish, and has a background in finance.

The Mexican American Democrats will work hard across the state to form coalitions with other groups who support same candidates and to bring out the Hispanic vote. The

## Gutiérrez blasts Flores "negative and untruthful" Campaign mail-out

County Commissioner Candidates for Lubbock's precinct 3 came out with gun blaring this week.



Incumbent Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez on Wednesday said that a recent mail out issued by his opponent Gilbert Flores is purely an exercise in negative advertising that Flores had promised he would not engage in.

"Since we start, his whole campaign has been full of misrepresentations and distortion of facts," said Gutierrez. "He started with trying to imply that he was an incumbent on his signs and when he announced, he claimed at the Democrats kickoff that he was a graduate of Slaton High School and had attended Tech." Gutierrez said that he had proof that Flores had indeed dropped out of school in the 10th grade and had only attended Tech for less than one semester.

Gutierrez said that the recent mail out was also full of untruths and distortion of facts. "First he claims that I reduced the funds for the General Assistance Fund. And let President Bush be the challenger of a "new and modern system that is more efficient and saves the taxpayers money yet continues to provide superior road maintenance service to all County residents."

"The man is living in a dream, no funds have ever been added to the GA program at mid-year to an already approved budget, and likewise the funds have never been cut" said Gutierrez.

In the campaign mail-out Flores claims that "let President Bush be the challenger of a "new and modern system that is more efficient and saves the taxpayers money yet continues to provide superior road maintenance service to all County residents."

The Flores mail-out ends with a statement saying that "precinct 3 can stand another 4 years of his nonsense!"

"The only nonsense I see is the untruths found in his mail-out" said Gutierrez.

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# Editorial

## Our Endorsements in the Democratic Primary

One of the most difficult things a newspaper does is endorse political candidates; but it is also one of the most important roles that a newspaper plays in the political process. While some papers have opted to not endorse in the primaries, we have chosen to do so in the Democratic Primary.

Ultimately it is the voters who will decide which candidates to vote for but we offer our endorsements here as a guide for our readers to consider.

This past year has been an unprecedented one in American politics. On the one hand we had two firsts on the national campaign scene. On the other hand, we have a local county race in which the former County Commissioner is trying to win back his seat from a first term commissioner.

While there are many races in both the Democratic and Republican primaries, we have decided to endorse in just a few races which we think have the capacity to impact us both nationally and locally and more so than others.

Early voting has already started and we strongly encourage everyone to go vote and make your voice heard at the ballot box. Remember that "Su Voto es Su Voz?" Your vote is your voice!

## Democratic Primary – Senator Hillary Clinton

This is a difficult one to call; and one in which our editorial board was not unanimous in; but as in our democracy, the majority rules. We admire both Presidential candidates and believe that both bring something unique to the table and represent a new wave of candidates, one as the first woman with a credible chance to get elected and one an African American who represents a new wave of American politics.

But when it comes to endorsing a candidate we think has laid the groundwork and prepared for a successful presidency our choice is Senator Hillary Clinton. When it comes to experience and a history of working for the causes we believe in we think Hillary Clinton is the way to go.

During her first term in the United States Senate she exhibited leadership and a determination to work on issues such as healthcare, education, and immigration reform among other important issues.

We are not so naive to think that a President does it all alone; but we do think a President sets the tone for the national agenda and how this country is perceived here and in the rest of the world. Our country is tirelessly campaigning for the things she believes in will serve us all well in November and beyond.

But we reserve the right to revisit our endorsement depending on which candidate is selected by the voters to face the Republican candidate in November.

## County Commissioner Precinct 3 – Ysidro Gutierrez

This year's race for County Commissioner has left us and many other voters with a multitude of questions. Questions which exist primarily due to a lack of access to the candidate Gilbert Flores.

In an effort to clarify many of these questions, El Editor together with the Southwest Digest had proposed a debate in which both candidates could come before our readers and in a public and open forum to answer questions and address our concerns with the challenges they face. For this reason, we decided to endorse our endorsement through a discussion by the editors that included both looking at the candidate's records and campaign materials, which include personal qualifications of each. We also looked at El Editor back issues and past service historical records of each candidate.

In Gilbert Flores' case we had 12 years of service to consider and no personal interview and in the incumbent's Ysidro Gutierrez case we had a 3 year record and a personal interview. When considering the candidates qualifications we based our endorsement on the fact that in the past few years, our community has politically evolved and matured and has tried to elect leaders who are qualified and have attained an adequate education level to keep up with the fast paced workplace filled with technological advances such as computers and million dollar budgets that effect our every day lives.

In this category, Gutierrez far outclasses Flores. In our view, Gutierrez has prepared himself education wise to understand the complexities of the office and engage other commissioners in both technical and practical discussions. And while Mr. Flores says that experience is more important than education, we think Mr. Gutierrez's combination of education plus 3 years experience as Commissioner trumps Mr. Flores' experience alone. Also, in considering Mr. Gutierrez's MBA with Flores' education it is easy to understand our decision.

In performance Mr. Gutierrez again outclasses Mr. Flores in that we have seen that in during Mr. Gutierrez' past 3 years the Commissioner's Court has taken the initiative of building a new jail and consolidating County road repairs. Both these issues are vastly important to our county residents.

During Mr. Flores' tenure we continually saw the jail being placed on probation and also continuously saw squabbles by County residents over roads being better in one precinct compared to the other.

Although there are probably many other issues that need to be considered, to us as editors, these are more than enough.

This is why in the race for County Commissioner Precinct 3, we endorse the incumbent Commissioner Ysidro Gutierrez. We feel he does a good job in his first term and deserves another 4 to continue to build on his record of achievement.

## Lubbock County Democratic Chair – No Endorsement

Another race which is important to county residents is the race for the Lubbock County Democratic Party Chairmanship. In the interest of full disclosure, Charles Dunn has been a contributor to our editorial pages this past year; and we have published several of his thoughtful and well written op-ed pieces. In deciding whether to endorse a candidate in this race we felt the best thing to do was to provide space for each candidate to make their case and to let the voters decide. On this page, readers will find a Q&A with each candidate's answers.

## Other Endorsements

### United States Senator – Rick Noriega

Although we are impressed with Ray McMurtry, Noriega's major opponent in the Democratic primary, we feel that Mr. Noriega has the best chance of defeating current Senator John Cornyn if he should face him in November.

His experience in the Texas House and his commitment to public service has provided the necessary background for Mr. Noriega to bring his style of public service to Washington.

In addition, Mr. Noriega has served his country in the military and continues to serve and we think that experience will help him contribute to the discussion about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### Texas Rail Road Commissioner – Art Hall

We were impressed by Mr. Hall and his credentials when he spoke at the Democratic Campaign Kick Off in Lubbock in January. Mr. Hall showed that he too is well prepared and experienced to handle a high profile position on the Texas Railroad Commission. And the commission is important because it sets rates for utility companies such as Water, Electric and Exact Energy when they are unable to come to rate agreements with local city governments.

Mr. Hall represents one of us. He was educated in Lubbock public schools and understands the hardships people like he and his family have gone through in order to succeed. The level of education he obtained at Harvard coupled with his law degree from Texas Tech and experience while serving on the San Antonio City Council has prepared him well to serve on the Texas Railroad Commission.

The opinions expressed in El Editor's editorial represents the views of El Editor's editorial board and not those of El Editor's advertisers or anyone else associated with El Editor. Editor's email: editor@sbglobal.net

## El Editor

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## GOOD NEWS FOR OBAMA: NOW IT'S TEJANOS, NOT CHICANOS

By Tim Chávez

There may be more good news awaiting U.S. Sen. Barack Obama than we realize — influenced by a large Hispanic vote — announced following the March 4 Texas Democratic Primary.

Texas can be a whole different enclava than California when it comes to Hispanic political and social issues. It can be as different as the Lone Star state as the reds versus the greens sala sitting on the table in an authentic Mexican eatery.

My descendants are Texas Hispanics. We always voted our California relatives (the sisters who voted in large percentage for Sen. Hillary Clinton on Super Tuesday) — with curiosity, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s. It was not my intent to express that they were wrong in any way for their intense political and religious views. My mother and father they were just different when it came to needed "change" — the motivating word in the 2008 Democratic primaries.

Even the word "chicano" did not catch on with my family and relatives. My mother and father carried the conviction of being slow and clumsy. She felt he had enough obstacles against us in society. Why add another?

Texas never felt any ripple effect from California's Proposition 187 movement that grew out of then-Gov. Pete Wilson's public attacks against Hispanic immigrants. They even knew that sort of nonsense would not be practical. Then-Gov. George W. Bush helped shoot that movement in the 1990s before it reached the Mississippi River.

I don't mean to suggest that Texas is without its own obstacles for Latinos. My father swore he would never live there. "They're still fighting the Alamo" he'd yell. Lynchings in Texas continued into the 1900s. Corpus Christi's late, great Dr. Hector Garcia founded the American G.I. Forum in 1948 to deal with rampant discrimination against Hispanics. In its first act, the civil rights group partnered with then-congressman Lyndon Johnson to establish the Hernandez family's funeral home national to allow the hero to lie in repose with his white comrades in arms.

When Texas becomes majority Hispanic in 12 to more than a decade, enemies will need to be identified. That kind of change provides some advantages for Obama's "change" message in Texas that he didn't have in California.

Here are a few tips for his campaign based on family experiences:

\* Fill your Texas support staff with Chicago Hispanics who know the senator well. My family crossed the border into Texas during the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920, then relocated to central Kansas, where my father went to work for the Santa Fe Railroad. My abuela would regularly catch the train from Kansas to Chicago to visit relatives. Texas Latinos have a lot of kn in Chicago. And hear me out: Obama would provide the suburbs. I'd go a long way toward convincing Lone Star Latinos.

\* Hit the Hillary flip-flop. Senator Clinton staged an abrupt political retreat after she stepped up when she deserted an effort by New York's governor to allow immigrants to apply for driver's licenses without having to provide legal residency. To the governor, it was a public safety issue. Clinton deserted him when opinion polls showed a political backlash against the proposal. Obama has consistently supported the license proposal.

\* Stress jobs, jobs, jobs: Unlike many politically active California Chicanos, my family believed working twice as hard and long as anyone else would provide the route to a better life — beginning within their own families. Money means the power in U.S. society.

\* Obama should stress his work on the immigration reform legislation that failed last year in Congress. It had bipartisan support. Texas Latinos have shown themselves less aghast at reaching across the aisle to work with Republicans, even voting for them occasionally.

\* Bring Latinos and blacks together: Obama can gain Hispanic support by encouraging healing in the rift between Latinos and African Americans in many parts of the South. It exists. Dallas public schools suffered greatly while whites kept fleeing to the suburbs.

\* Latino families in Texas constantly preach the value of education. Alberto Gonzales' story is not just a once-in-a-lifetime tale. It happens. Black middleclass, still trying to do well in an increasingly neo-conservative children, have shown themselves hesitant to embrace Hispanic needs and support a more balanced allocation of resources. Obama must preach to both groups how to work together so urban centers do not become educational wastelands.

The late El Paso-born and-raised writer and mentor José Antonio Burciaga used his talent to teach with humor about creating change through direct involvement. He positively cited the differences between Texas and California of Hispanic descent. In his book "Drinks Culture: Chicanoism", Burciaga devoted an entire chapter to his own "mixed marriage." His wife Cecilia was born and raised in California.

Obama's message of hope can help change the more disorienting aspects of the Chicano, Tejano and black existence. And it can help all Texans accept the change that's coming their way by the year 2020.

On March 4, Texas Latinos can give Obama the kind of delegate breathing room he needs to capture the Democratic nomination.

(Tim Chávez of Nashville, Tennessee, is a political columnist. He can be reached at [timchavez787@yahoo.com](mailto:timchavez787@yahoo.com).)

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### Take Your Child and Vote!

I believe that President Clinton's visit to Lubbock was a success. He allowed the Hillary campaign offers solutions. In her speeches 'I've yet to hear his "piggy back" her comments after Obama has shared his ideas with the media. However, I have heard him say "Oh, by the way my plan is similar to Hillary's and I've worked 20 hours on my plan." 2/13/08 CNN Headline News.

Senator Clinton, has worked on her various solutions for over 20+ years! Question, who would you rather have on your side, an experienced successful legislator or one with 2 years experience passing or not passing or not voting one way or the other on any legislation?

I'll take experience over "motivation, any day". Not because she's woman, but because she has PROVEN herself to be more than millions of other Democrats. Hillary has been in the trenches for us for 35+ years, she has earned my vote.

Let's show those "pundits, vote for Hillary! I believe my will immediately say, "Oh, yes, typical woman", but not so, I'm a woman who educates herself on the issues, by reading, listening and attending important meetings about the issues and then votes.

Lubbock, our COUNTRY is in peril, we need to make sure, whoever is voted into office can handle the Trillions of dollars of deficit we're in. Yes, we the USA citizen will have to pay our way out of debt!

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE LATINO VOTE, TAKE YOUR CHILD AND VOTE, THEY CAN STAND BESIDE YOU WHILE YOU VOTE!!!!!! Teach your children well, demonstrate the power they can have when they VOTE!!! Ms. Ernestine O. Cantu M.Ed., Lubbock

## LAS PALABRAS NECIAS DE LA HILLARY CLINTON

La Sra. Clinton dice que las palabras que pronuncia Obama son vulgares y corrientes. Según su personal apreciación Obama es un traficante de drogas y oportunista. Pero nosotros estamos hartos de lo mismo, y deseamos un cambio radical en la forma de hacer política en este país. Tenemos esperanza y sueños. Obama nos habla claro y nos dice que el cambio de actitud en Washington no será fácil y que sus programas enfrentarán oposición, pero estamos dispuestos a votar por él, porque sabemos que luchará por nosotros.

Hillary no siempre explica el significado exacto de sus palabras y francamente se hace boba. Lo que si nos queda muy claro es que no favorece a los más necesitados. Ella no piensa en la seguridad en nuestras carreteras y no apoya licencias de conducir para los trabajadores indocumentados. No ha dicho como pensar mejor y aumentar los fondos del Seguro Social. No ha dicho si hará aumentos anuales al salario mínimo. No ha propuesto medidas para honrar a los soldados inmigrantes que luchan en la guerra y que han muerto dejando esposas, hijos y padres en la soledad. No nos ha dicho si está dispuesta a tomar riesgos por ayudarnos. Siento que no quiere comprometer su futuro y dejar de recibir la ayuda de los grandes empresarios que financian la campaña presidencial de su esposo para la presidencia y que ahora le ayuda a ella. Ella es en clara en expresar sus verdaderas intenciones porque no toma ni tomara riesgos por nosotros. Sus palabras se las llevará el viento.

El plan de Seguro Médico que ella ofrece es obligatorio, y no voluntario. Es obligatorio y si no lo pagamos su administración lo cobrará directamente de nuestros salarios. Imagínese, si una familia tuvo muchos gastos una quinceña y no pagó el seguro, ellos cobrarán la prima rebajando la de nuestros salarios y entonces no completamos ni para comer. A ella eso le importa porque cree que ella puede que las compañías de seguros sign aumentando sus utilidades a nuestra costa. AH Y que sign financiando su campaña.

Ella no ofrece medidas y propuestas que pongan en riesgo su futuro político. Ella quiere tener buenas relaciones con los poderosos empresarios que contribuyen para su campaña.

### OBAMA HABLAR CLARO Y DICE LA VERDAD. VOTEMOS POR OBAMA PORQUE CON EL, SI SE PUEDE.

Esther Garcia, Alvin, Texas

### And We're Supposed to Trust the Police?

Lubbock Police Chief Claude Jones retired just in time. Just in time to get indicted with tampering with evidence or maybe, obstruction of justice that is.

I've written before on Lubbock police officers and their stupidity. One officer caught driving his patrol car drunk with four flat tires. This was after attending a party with other members of the local PD. Another outrageous incident of an officer sexually assaulting a young Hispanic female in the back seat of his patrol car in exchange for not arresting her. And within the last couple of weeks, another cop indicted for hit and run.

Now, I see why the fuzz feels they can do whatever they want, to whoever they want. Their own police chief is caught destroying evidence. According to News Channel 11, "Court documents show two days after Officer Matt Doherty issued Juan Nunez, Lubbock Police Chief Claude Jones asked internal affairs Sergeant Anthony Gribben to prepare a taser memo... Sgt. Gribbens says when he took the memo for approval, Jones waded it up... [and] said something to the effect of, we don't want to leave a paper trail on this. In depositions, Chief Jones admits to crumpling up and throwing the memo..."

However, does not recall making a statement about a paper trail. "How convenient!" But what's equally interesting is that the news story further relates that "Upon learning of the Chief's actions, Lieutenant Scott Hudgens spoke to the city attorney several months later. Lawyers reportedly told Hudgens not to discuss the matter with anyone else."

Then, within a week of the story breaking, it was announced that Assistant Police Chief Dale Holton is the person recommended to take over the police department.

Let recap: 1) Police Officers are doing as they please, violating people's rights left and right; 2) Police Chief announces his retirement; 3) Police Chief accused of destroying evidence; 4) Good cop tells city attorney, "something's just not right here"; 5) City Attorney tells good cop to keep it to himself; 6) City doesn't even consider opening up the position of Police Chief but rather, tells the City Council Dale Holton is the next Police Chief.

I wonder, is the city hiring one of their own because they know Dale Holton is part of the problem the police department has and therefore will find in line with whatever the city attorney and city manager want? Can we really expect Linda DeLeon (married to a former cop) or Floyd Price (a former cop) to say anything about all of the injustices being done? Can we expect any of the other council members to say anything either? I don't know about you but, I think the cops around here are starting to sound very, very crooked. RMS, Lubbock

"Freedom of Expression" is a weekly feature of El Editor. We invite readers to submit their letters, commentaries and opinions for publication. All submissions will be subject to our editorial policies and practices; and may be edited due to space limitations. Ideas and opinions are strictly those of the writer. Submissions may be sent via email to [editor@sbglobal.net](mailto:editor@sbglobal.net)





# Children's Sale Seeking "Gently Used" Items

Local parents who want to earn more return on the sale of their children's "gently used" clothing, furniture and toys should sign-up now to participate in Cradles 2 Crayons, Lubbock's only bi-annual children's consignment sale.

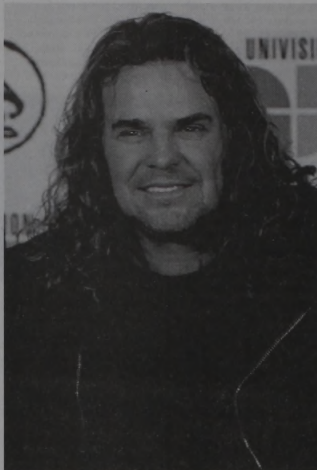
The sale is scheduled for March 7-8 at Rainier Christian Church, 3601 82nd St., Lubbock. Unlike consignment stores, consignors at this sale set the price for their own items. "The best part is that consignors earn higher percentages on their sales than they would in consignment shops," said Allison Hays, one of the co-founders of Cradles 2 Crayons. "Plus you don't have to wait a long time for your items to sell."

Checks will be mailed to consignors the week following the sale. In addition, consignors also get to shop

the pre-sale on March 6 before it's open to the general public. All types of children's fall and winter clothing, sizes newborn to pre-teen, are accepted. "Anything in good condition and child-related is appropriate," said Hays. Example sale items include toys, games, highchairs, cribs, bicycles, shoes, bottles, play gyms, children's CD's, nursery décor, costumes, and maternity clothing. Consignors pay a \$7 consignment fee and get to keep 65% of the sale price of their items. Consignors also can earn up to 85% of the sale price of their items simply by volunteering for the sale.

All consignors must contact Cradles 2 Crayons to participate. More information about the sale, including how to register to become a consignor, is available at <http://www.cradles2crayons.net/>

# Maná Singer Fher Criticizes Hugo Chávez



Fher Olivera, singer for the band Maná, is standing up for Alejandro Sanz. The Mexican vocalist called Venezuelan authorities unjust for keeping the Spanish artist from giving a concert in the South American country last Feb. 14.

"This is about a universal injustice, not just in Venezuela. No president can prohibit art. It's like what the PRI political party would do years ago in Mexico - they wouldn't let you see concerts, and you would have to see Queen and other bands outside of the country. That's why we support Sanz, because the Chávez

[administration] is a dictatorship, and a free country should let art be made available." The 48-year-old singer said at a press conference in Mexico.

Fher was one of the 85 celebrities who supported Sanz by signing a letter of disapproval of the Venezuelan authorities' actions. The Maná singer also insinuated that the Hugo Chávez government has promoted a climate of fear in the country. "If people are afraid to say anything then something is wrong... The Venezuelan community doesn't deserve to have artists taken from them," he reiterated.

# Estrellas celebran 20 años de Premios Lo Nuestro

Juan Luis Guerra, el grupo Aventura, Maná, Xtreme, Enrique Iglesias y Ricky Martin son algunas de las estrellas de la música latina que esperan triunfar el jueves en la vigésima edición del Premio Lo Nuestro.

La incógnita sobre los ganadores quedará revelada a partir de las 00:01 GMT del viernes, cuando comience la ceremonia que en la que también se festejarán los 20 años del premio, uno de los más antiguos de la música latina. Sólo uno de los galardonados se conoce por anticipado: el premio a la Trayectoria, que recibirá la puertorriqueña Olga Tañón por sus dos décadas de exitosa carrera.

La transmisión televisiva comenzará con el paso de los largos por la alfombra roja, y a lo largo de tres horas contará con las actuaciones especiales de Aventura, Pepe Aguilar, AB Quintanilla II, El Presenta Kumbia Allstarz, Enrique Crespo, Gloria Estefan, Vicente Fernández, Juanes, Maná, Tañón y Martín, entre otros.

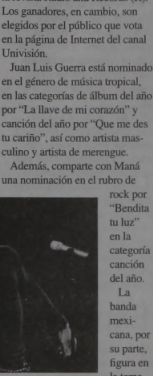
El Premio Lo Nuestro otorga anualmente galardones en 32 categorías en los cinco géneros más populares de la música latina: pop, tropical, regional mexicana, rock y urbana. Además, se premia el mejor video del año.

Los nominados son seleccionados de las listas compiladas por la revista Radio and Records (R).

Los ganadores, en cambio, son elegidos por el público que vota en la página de Internet del canal Univisión.

Juan Luis Guerra está nominado en el género de música tropical, en las categorías de álbum del año por "La llave de mi corazón" y canción del año por "Que me des tu cariño", así como artista masculino y artista de merengue.

Además, comparte con Maná una nominación en el rubro de



rock por "Bendita tu luz" en la categoría canción del año.

La banda mexicana, por su parte, figura en la lista de artista del año por "De rock del año y sus canciones 'Manda una señal' y 'Ojalá pudiera borrarla' también fueron postuladas.

Aventura se mide con Guerra con su álbum "KOB Live", y también comparte a los premios al grupo o dúo del año y artista del año en tropical tradicional. Además tiene dos nominaciones con sus canciones "Infeles" y "Mi corazoncito".

El rockero Ricky Martin, en tanto, figura en el género pop en las categorías de álbum ("MPV Unplugged"), artista masculino y canción ("Tu recuerdo"), con La Man de "Chambao" y Tommy Torres).

En el 2007, la transmisión de los Premios Lo Nuestro fue vista por más de 11 millones de televidentes, según los organizadores.

# American Gangster now available on DVD

Following the death of his employer and mentor, Bumpy Johnson, Frank Lucas establishes himself as the number one importer of heroin in the Harlem district of Manhattan. He does so by buying heroin directly from the source in South East Asia and he comes up with a unique way of importing the drugs into the United States. As a result, his product is superior to what is currently available on the street and his prices are lower. His alliance with the New York Mafia ensures his position. It is also the story of a dedicated and honest politician, Richie Roberts, who heads up a joint narcotics task force with the Federal government. Based on a true story American Gangster is now available on DVD in a two part disk which contain scenes not included in the film.



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Guerra y Aventura, grupo neoyorquino de origen dominicano, son los que más posibilidades tienen de quedarse con varios galardones, seguidos de otros artistas de renombre internacional como Xtreme y Maná, que cuentan con cuatro nominaciones; y Ricky Martin, Enrique Iglesias, Kumbia All Starz, Los Tigres del Norte, el cantante Primavera, Daddy Yankee y Héctor El Father, entre otros, que tienen tres.

La ceremonia, que será transmitida en vivo por el canal Univisión desde el American Airlines Arena de Miami, estará conducida por el legendario cantante y actor Pedro Fernández, ganador de nueve Premios Lo Nuestro, y Paty Navidad, una cantante de música banda dos veces nominada para estos galardones.

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# A Q&A on the Race for the Lubbock County Democratic Chair

One of the most important political races in Lubbock County is the contest for Lubbock County Democratic Chair. But just what is the position and what does being the County Chair involve? In an effort to inform voters as they cast their vote for one of two candidates, we have highlighted the race this week as perhaps the most important in this Democratic Primary.

We invited the two candidates, Pam Brink and Charles Dunn to share their answers with voters.

### Question: What is the role of the Lubbock County Democratic Chair in county politics?

**Pam Brink:** As the leader of the Democratic Party, the County Chair's most elemental responsibility is to coordinate primary elections and county conventions, ensuring fairness and a timely and thorough response to all state rules and regulations. These detailed tasks are crucial assignments for the health and fairness of the election process. I recognize the commitment of those who stand for the position of Lubbock County Democratic Chair and am ready to accept the challenge.

The County Chair also presides over Executive Committee Meetings. The Executive Committee is the decision-making body of the party and is comprised of all precinct chairs. Monthly Executive Committee Meetings are open and also include party committee members who are not necessarily precinct chairs.

Encouraging participation in party activities is another important role for the County Chair. Membership has grown appreciably in the past nine years, and we can anticipate steady growth in the future as more and more good citizens respond to the people values of the Democratic Party. As County Chair I will work very hard to help find a meaningful role for everyone who is a Democrat and wants to participate. I already have a track record for membership recruitment and will escalate these efforts. We are a welcoming party and our membership reflects that. We are young and old, culturally and socially diverse, and independent minded. We already have members serving on six standing committees and members involved in satellite groups like our active chapters of Democracy for America and Texas Democratic Women where we host bonding being one of the largest chapters in the state. Under my leadership, the Lubbock County Democratic Party will embrace even more ideas, more political activities, and many more people.

While the County Chair does not select candidates, I certainly will be vigorously engaged in candidate recruitment efforts. I want to encourage young people to become involved in Democratic politics. Public service is a high calling and one that is crucial to a healthy republic. Young people are interested again. Retirees are interested again. I will work to attract worthy candidates at the local, county, and regional level to run for office as Democrats and rely upon the infrastructure I and my fellow Democrats were building over the past nine years to support their efforts and get them elected.

**Charles Dunn:** The County Chair is the presiding officer of the Lubbock County Democratic Party Executive Committee. The purpose of the Chair is to select Democratic Party candidates to support Democratic candidates. The Chair sets the agenda and direction of the local Democratic Party and serves as the spokesperson to the media on local political issues.

### Question: Why have you decided to seek the office?

**Charles Dunn:** I am running for county chair because the current leadership of the Democratic Party has failed to win a contested county wide race in the last 25 years. The current county chair took office only six months ago from the previous county chair that held the position for one year, resigned, took it back again for about six months and then resigned again and moved to another city. After the primary, the local Democratic Party will have its third county chair in only two years. It is not possible to win elections if the leadership is constantly changing. I have practiced law in Lubbock for 28 years and will bring stability to the position.

There are 88 precincts in Lubbock County but the local leadership has only filed 31 of the precincts with precinct chairs. We must fill all of the precinct chairs in order to have a strong and effective party. My opponent is part of the current leadership and wants to continue with the same policies that have failed to win elections for Democrats. I offer a new direction and a new beginning for the party. I will broaden the base of the party to reach out to Independent voters and Republican voters who are dissatisfied with the Republicans who hold all of the local and statewide offices. I will bring back small business owners, professionals and minorities who are loyal Democrats but feel alienated from the current leadership. My message to the voters of Lubbock County will be to emphasize the economic issues that unite us rather than the social issues that divide us.

**Pam Brink:** I'm running for Lubbock County Democratic Chair because I know how to organize and bring people together, have experience in networking, negotiating, and budget management, have a successful track record of fundraising, and care about the healthy growth of a party on the rise. This job fits my talents.

For the past nine years, I have been very involved in building a strong Democratic Party organization and in my own accomplishments. When many were saying you have to switch to the Republican Party to win in Lubbock County, we supported excellent candidates to represent the party, including Robert Ricketts and John Miller.

Now, we have a contested primary for our congressional seat. The very fact I have an opponent for County Chair indicates that our efforts are beginning to pay off. People are beginning to believe once again that we can run for office in Lubbock County as a Democrat. We are on the move, and I think I'm the one to lead the party into this new era.

### Question: What experience or qualifications do you have that qualifies you for the office?

**Pam Brink:** I've been active in Democratic politics my whole adult life. I'm proud to belong to a political party that cares about the people and has always, even as a business owner proclaimed my loyalty to the values of the Democratic Party and worked through thick and thin to maintain them. I have been involved in many local campaigns, including the elections of Maggie Trejo, Victor Hernandez, Linda DelLeon, and Gilbert Flores. I worked closely with Irma Guerrero to secure the funding for our debt-free Headquarters and organized block-walking over six Saturdays for Clifford Clemens in 2000. Lubbock County was his only win against Mac Thornberry.

Each year, I help organize the Democratic Party Fundraising Banquet and the Fundraising Art Auction. I know how to make money for the party and make people feel welcome.

From 2000-2006, I was President of the West Texas Coalition of Democrats and in that role organized the 2002 West Texas Campaign Causus for state and regional Democratic candidates. I coordinated setting up rallies with local organizers in a four-day swing through Levelland, Muleshoe, Hereford, Tulia, Amarillo, Pampa, Wellington, Childress, Wichita Falls, Olton, Graham, Abilene, San Angelo, Big Spring, Odessa, Laressa, and Lubbock. I know Democrats throughout West Texas through outreach efforts to the other cities and towns of the region.

Unlike my opponent, who remained absent from party participation even when he was a precinct chair, I served six Precinct 28 Chair from 2000-2005, making contact with the Democrats in my precinct and consistently attending Executive Committee Meetings.

I'm a charter member of Texas Democratic Women and attend monthly meetings. I always try to come through when I make a commitment.

I have also owned and operated my own business for 28 years and have served on the board member of a number of community organizations, including TTU School of Art/Medical Center, Supporters of the Fine Arts (SOFA), Lubbock Heritage Society, and President of the South Overton neighborhood organization called SORCA.

I think these party and community efforts in working with people, budgets, and issues have given me the experience to establish solid relationships and goals for growing the Lubbock County Democratic Party.

**Charles Dunn:** I have devoted my entire legal career to standing up for the rights of the ordinary citizen against big government, large corporations and insurance companies. I stood up for the Hampton Coaches when they were arrested in the Wal-Mart parking lot because they were African-American and the Lubbock Police wrongly accused them of a "bat and switch scheme". I stood up for Sheriff Njje, an African-American who was paralyzed and rendered a quadriplegic when he was beaten by Lubbock County Jailers and thrown into solitary confinement. I stood up for a young Hispanic woman who was sexually assaulted by a Lubbock Police Officer and a young African-American man who was brutally teased by a Lubbock Police Officer for no valid reason. I have represented thousands of individual citizens who have been injured because of the negligence of others. I have represented many others who have been discriminated against in the workplace because of their race or sex.

### Question: One of the criticisms we have heard is that there are not enough Hispanics involved in the Democratic Party considering that the county has at least a 35% Hispanic population. Do you see this as an issue and if so how are some suggestions you have to try and change this situation?

**Charles Dunn:** Lubbock Hispanics are loyal Democratic voters but have been neglected by the local leadership. They do not feel welcome in the local Party. This must change. If we are to win in Lubbock County, we must have the support of the younger Hispanic community leaders to recruit Hispanics to run for office and to serve on leadership committees within the local party. Hispanic children need to see their parents involved in politics so that they will understand the importance of voting and participating in our democracy. They are our future. I will make sure that we include all Democrats in the local leadership, not just the Texas Tech elite.

**Pam Brink:** Yes, I think the party would profit from more Hispanic participation in the Lubbock County Democratic Party. I have worked on many campaigns to elect Hispanics to office, and I celebrate the political victories of Irma Guerrero, Ysidro Gutierrez, Gilbert Flores, Aurora Hernandez,

Marina Garcia, Victor Hernandez, and Maggie Trejo. I will work to expand the Hispanic voice in all areas of Lubbock County decision-making. I considered Irma Guerrero a dear and respected friend and valued working with her in many aspects of growing the party. My opponent's indifference to these political victories and contributions is, to me, mind-boggling. We need more Hispanic precinct chairs, but if the duties are heavy on top of work, children, and the complexities of life, people can get involved in the party in the ways that make sense to them. We have six standing committees and room for more. Volunteering for a committee that fits someone's deep concerns or special talents is a way to participate on an individual level. A committee dealing with Hispanic concerns in Lubbock County would be of great value to

the county and the party. I also think it would be a good idea to have an annual celebration for all Democrats just to get to know each other and enjoy music, food, and drink. I think we all have made and bring common than the things that divide us. An inexpensive get-together will bring us closer as a party, and I have been very successful at organizing such annual gatherings. I am a great believer in round table discussion and would welcome the opportunity to sit down and bring all issues to the table. A monthly lunch with structured discussion is another idea.

All in all, I think we are in this citizenship business together, and I want to engage more and more people in the process of bettering our democracy by working in the Lubbock County Democratic Party. Email: [elditor@tblgobal.net](mailto:elditor@tblgobal.net)



## SPORTS RELEASE

This is our annual fundraiser and we need your help with PSA membership.

**WHO:** LUBBOCK WARRIORS OPTIMIST BOYS & GIRLS CLUB  
**WHAT:** TEXAS STATE REGIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP  
**WHEN:** FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, 2008 @ 7:30 PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd 2008 @ 7:30 AM  
**WHERE:** CITY BANK COLISEUM

**TICKETS:** All Bank-A-Save Locations For information contact Edward Hernandez at 763-4970 or 746-9634

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